

# Govt mulls MIP to curb aluminium imports

**New Delhi, Aug 21:** The government is considering imposing a minimum import price on aluminium to help stem a surge in cheaper imports which are hurting domestic manufacturers.

The revenue department in the Ministry of Finance is studying the case made by domestic manufacturers led by Vedanta, Nalco, Hindalco and Balco for imposing the minimum import price (MIP).

Chief executives of domestic manufacturers met finance minister Arun Jaitley on August 18 with their demand for protection from cheaper imports. They sought expeditious imposition of import restrictions such as MIP on aluminium import on lines of the once imposed on

steel, sources said.

China, the biggest producer and consumer of metals, is exporting surplus aluminium amid weak domestic demand.

Vedanta CEO Tom Albanese said discussions are on with states and the government to find a long-term solution so that the supply chain for the aluminium business becomes actually a domestic supply chain.

"Right now, the steel industry has a number of protections from imports but only about 15% of steel comes from imports whereas 50% of aluminium comes from imports in India. So, you have much greater import penetration in the aluminium sector than you have in the steel sector," he said.

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